

09/290,203

SUTURE-PASSING FORCEPS

Abstract of the Disclosure

A surgical instrument (e.g., suture-passing forceps) has a first jaw with a mount which supports a needled suture and a second jaw having a passage, which when aligned with the mount, is positioned to receive the needled suture. The second jaw is positioned relative to the mount in a manner which allows delivery of the instrument to a surgical site in a low profile, delivery position (e.g., with the jaws spaced relatively closely). The surgical instrument includes an elongated shaft having a distal region for supporting the jaws. The second jaw is pivotable, with respect to the mount, between the delivery position in which the second jaw is spaced relatively closely to the mount with the passage misaligned with the mount and an open, misaligned position, the second jaw being axially translatable relative to the mount to an open, aligned position in which the passage is aligned with the mount.

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